

How To Conduct a Litter Pickup . . .

Stream Style!



Missouri Stream Team . . . promoting citizen awareness and involvement in river and stream conservation.

• EDUCATION • STEWARDSHIP • ADVOCACY •

GETTING STARTED

Are you eager to jump right in and conduct your first stream cleanup . . . only to discover you need a little help getting started? In this brochure we've listed a few helpful hints to assist you with your efforts. If you're organizing a very large event, or need more detailed information, please attend one of our litter pickup workshops, or call us at 1-800-781-1989 (voice mail). Stream Team Staff is always ready to assist you!

Before:

Contact streamside landowners.

Always obtain landowner permission before entering private land, and inform your volunteers of property boundaries.

Inspect the area before the event.

Float or walk the section you plan to clean. Make an estimated count of tires that might be collected and call us for a waste tire reimbursement application for your tire disposal costs.

Organization is essential.

Decide upon access points, take-out points, collection areas, and time required to clean each stream section.



PLANNING BASICS

During:

Have a central gathering point.

Group leaders can organize there and distribute litter bags and gloves.

Give a short welcome and introduction.

Thank **all** sponsors, the media, and, of course, the volunteers!

Have a definite start-up time.

Be prompt with your start-up time, and announce a definite ending time. Make sure the group leaders and the volunteers know when to quit.

Be a promoter.

When you see other people on the stream, explain what you are doing. They may decide to join in!

Facilitate media coverage.

Assign a contact person to help reporters get all the information, photos, and video they need.

Don't trespass.

If you or any volunteers trespass, even by accident, the penalties can be severe. If you have obtained permission from the landowner, you should still instruct your volunteers to respect the landowner's property, livestock, fences, and gates.

Think accomplishments.

Take "before" and "after" photos to show others what you have accomplished.

Team Smile!



Team Safety!



Determine how trash will be disposed.

Waste hauling can be costly, so plan ahead. Contact solid waste officials in your area; they may be interested in donating their services.

Arrange for vehicles to haul trash to the disposal sites.

If there are no waste haulers available, you will need to transport trash to a disposal site. How many of your volunteers have trucks or tractors?

Solicit media coverage.

Don't forget to contact radio, television, and newspapers ahead of time. Give them plenty of information to encourage coverage of your event.

Obtain trash bags, gloves, and first-aid kits.

Reusable mesh litter bags, work gloves, and first-aid kits are available free to Stream Teams conducting litter pickups. Call 1-800-781-1989 (voice mail) with your request. Please allow at least two weeks for delivery.

Do not over commit.

Don't overwork your volunteers! Limit your cleanup plans to 2 - 3 hours.

Provide food and incentives.

Plan a picnic and arrange for door prizes to reward your volunteers.

Be aware of weather reports and river levels.

Have an alternate plan of action in case of inclement weather.

Contact a local ambulance service.

Many communities will provide an ambulance and EMT free of charge.

Always kick off the event with a strong safety lecture.

Make every effort to provide for the safety of your volunteers.

Heavy Equipment:

If your stream contains large items (cars, refrigerators, etc.), it may be necessary to remove these items as a separate project.

Such a project may require the use of heavy equipment. Remember that removing large items may decrease stream stability instead of enhancing it. Contact your local MDC fisheries biologist for advice on removing large objects that are more than half buried in sediment.



After:

Send thank-you notes or certificates to participants.

You could also recognize your volunteers in a newsletter or follow-up meeting.

Follow up on media contacts.

Make sure the community knows how much trash you removed and how many participants were involved.

*Don't relax yet...
you're not finished!*

Team Style!



Complete a Stream Team Activity Report.

Forward your report to MDC's Stream Unit at PO Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102. If you need an Activity Report, call 1-800-781-1989 (voice mail) or access one from the Stream Team website at www.mostreamteam.org. This is the only way we can use your successes to help further the program!

Continue to visit with landowners in the area.

Let them know about your accomplishments. Involve them in any projects you want to do on their property. A cooperative landowner may help you reach neighbors who have exhibited reluctance.

Make the community aware.

Talk to clubs, rotary groups, churches, and local government to let them know what you've accomplished.

Finally . . .

Sit back and feel good about what you have accomplished. Good luck from all of us in the Stream Team Program. Don't hesitate to contact us if you have questions or need help.

*Don't hesitate to contact the Stream Team
Biologist for your county if you have questions.*



Stream Team Biologists

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*Where can I get more
information?*



If you need assistance
or would like more
information, please call:
1-800-781-1989 (voice mail) or
573/751-4115 (ask for Stream Team)

You can also write to us at:

Stream Team
PO Box 180
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180

Or e-mail us at:

streamteam@mdc.mo.gov

Or visit our web site at:

<http://www.mostreamteam.org>

Stream Team is sponsored by:
Missouri Department of Conservation
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Conservation Federation of Missouri

STREAM TEAM HELP